

inserting the first guide projection of said ferrule into the other of the pair of positioning holes, and inserting the positioning projection into the guide hole of said ferrule;

receiving light passing through the fiber accomodating hole to determine a position of the fiber accomodating hole based on the received light; and

inspecting the position of the fiber accommodating hole with respect to the first guide projection and the guide hole based on the determined positions of the positioning hole and the fiber accommodating hole.

### REMARKS

Entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, prior to initial examination, is respectfully solicited. The present Amendment cancels claims 1 through 14, places claims 15, 16, 17, 25 and 26 in independent form, and corrects the dependency of claims 18, 20 and 21. The present Amendment also incorporates the preliminary amendments as filed in parent application Serial No. 09/509,953.

Respectfully submitted,

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